prices prevailing in the international and domestic markets on account of different varieties traded, variation in quality and other terms of trade.

Directions issued under FCI Act, 1964

1358. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that directions/ restrictions regarding pension of employees were issued under section 6(2) of the Food Corporations of India Act, 1964;

(b) if so, whether such instructions/ restrictions mostly pertaining to administration/personnel management of FCI has any relevance with section 6(2) of FCI Act in as much as this Section deals with policy guidelines protecting the interests of the Producers and the Consumers only; and

(c) whether such instructions will not tantamount to gross interference in the day-to-day administration of FCI , there by making the Board of directors defunct?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Action plan for export Led Growth Centres

1359. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Which are the export led growth centres identified by Government in Western part of the country;

(b) what are the steps taken to focus their attention towards maximum exports and expansion for raising exports within the time bound programme;

(c) whether any comprehensive scheme for this purpose for this part of the country has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As of now the following locations in the western part of the country fall in the category of Export Intensive Areas:—

Location	State
Surat	Gujarat Gujarat
Jamnagar	Gujarat Gujarat
Rajkot	Maharashtra
Vapi-Ankleshwar	
Nagpur	

(b) to (d); The State Governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra have been advised to prepare feasibility studies for strengthening the infrastructure at Surat and Nagpur respectively in order to facilitate export promotion.

Resortment over Pension Scheme for EPF Subscribers

1360. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the unrest and resentment among the working class over the proposed pension scheme for EPF subscribers;

(b) if so, whether Government have received memorandum from Trade Unions all over the country against the proposed anti-labour pension scheme and details thereof;

(c) what are the anti-labour/ unfavourable provisions/implications of the scheme which are likely to affect working class very adversely; and

(d) what action is taken/proposed by Government to safeguard the Interests of working class?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government has since framed

and notified the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 which would benefit over 150 million workers and their families. The Scheme has already come into force with effect from #6.11.95.

It would not be correct to hold that the Pension Scheme is anti-labour. The Scheme was evolved by the Central Board of Trustees on which, besides others, Central Trade Union Organisations are also represented. Before and after the Scheme was recommended by the Central Board of Trustees, a wider consultation with the Central Trade Union Organisations has taken place. All The Central Trade-Union Organisations except CITU and UTUC(LS) have generally supported the Pension Scheme with some suggestions for making improvements. These suggestions would be examined with a view to finding out if it would be possible to make any improvement in the Scheme without affecting its economic sustainability. Besides other suggestions CITU has suggested that pension should be given as a third benefit and that membership of the Scheme should be made optional. As pension and Central Provident Fund are considered mutually exclusive, it is not possible to give pension as a third benefit. It would also not be possible to make the membership of the Scheme optional as in the event of it being made optional, acturial calculations will just not be feasible because there would be no definiteness about contribution to the Scheme which is necessary in every contributory Scheme. The Scheme, however, provides for exemption of establishments if they have their own comparable or superior Pension Schemes.

The Scheme is meant for providing security to the workers and their families during the service of the workers and even after their retirement/death. As such there is no provision in the Scheme which could adversely affect the working class.

जनजातीय लोगों को सामान्य दरों पर खाद्यान्न जारी किया जाना

1361. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी** : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार जनजातिय क्षेत्रों में स्थापित खाद्यान्न डिपो से सामान्य पर खाद्यान्न जारी करने का विचार रखती है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो जनजातिय लोगों की सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति को देखते हुए, जनजातीय क्षेत्र उपयोजना स्कीम के अंतर्गत सामान्य दरों पर खाद्यान्न की आपूर्ति न किए जाने के क्या कारण है ?

नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में राज्य मंत्री (उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली विभाग)(श्री विनोद शर्मा): (क) जी, नहीं

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली क्षेत्रों, जिनमें समेकित आदिवासी विकास परियोजनाओं, आदिवासी बहुल राज्यों तथा करीब-एंग्लोंग तथा असम के उत्तरी कछार में पहाड़ी जिले के तहत आने वाले सभी ब्लाक शामिल है, में विवरण के लिए अभिप्रेत खाद्यान्न विशेष रूप से राजसहायता प्राप्त केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्यों पर जारी किए जाते हैं, जो सामान्य सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली क्षेत्रों हेतु केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्यों की तुलना में 50 रू. प्रति क्विंटल कम है। इन आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में वितरण के लिए अभिप्रेत वाले खाद्यान्नों पर इस विशेष राजसहायता को समाप्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

भारतीय खाद्य निगम मे ठेकेदारी प्रथा

1362. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज** :

श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा ठेकेदारी प्रथा के तहत कार्य किया जाता है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो निगम में किन-किन कार्यो के लिए ठेकेदारी प्रथा को अपनाया गया है,

(ग) क्या इस ठेकेदारी प्रथा के तहत कार्य आवंटन